Development of Tourism in Hilly Areas

1072. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awcre of the potentialities for tourism in hilly areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to exploit Tourism potentialities in Hill areas; and

(c) if so, the details of proposals received from the State Government in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism constituted a Task Force in 1996 to study the special problems and draw up specific schemes and projects for the development of tourism in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. The Task Force has submitted its recommendations which have been forwarded to different State Government in the North East.

(c) Department of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs. 439.84 lakhs for 25 tourism projects in Assam during Eighth Plan. In 1994-95 the Deptt. of Tourism received a prioritised proposal from Govt, of Assam for Constructioa of Tourist Lodge at Halflong, a hill station in North Cachar Hills district of Assam and sanctioned an amount of Rs. 27.79 lakhs for this project.